

Thank you all !

As editor of Point of Reference, I would like to use this space to thank everyone who participated, attended, and helped in making the October 26, 2000 workshop "History in Your Backyard: A Workshop on Local History" a big success.

By the way...

Hey, fellow librarians ! If you feel that the position of reference librarian is a dying breed, you'd be wrong, according to the article at CNN's "Career Trends" story "Not an endangered career : Looking it up." (posted on November 28, 2000 at <http://www.cnn.com/2000/CAREER/trends/11/28/librarians/>). Check it out !

On your mark

I'm sure you'll get asked "when does the millenium *really* begin" at least once during the holidays. So you can be ready, this answer can be found at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) miscellaneous FAQ file (<http://www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/general/misc.htm>).

Along with this handy little FAQ file, this web site permits you to download public domain software (and instructions) in order for you to synchronize your computer clock to NIST time by using a number of different connections. See the options at (<http://www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/service/time-computer.html>).

The time information provided is directly traceable to the Coordinated Universal Time service associated with NIST.

Depending on time delays and telecommunications traffic, this time should generally be accurate within a second. The time should be reloaded when daylight saving time changes.

"Sacred Cows" hit the front page !

When reading through this month's (December 2000: volume 31, number 11) edition of American Libraries, there was a "Theme Feature" named "Sacred Cows." If you haven't read the following articles ...

- "Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make It Do, or Do Without" (page 35) by Virginia H. Mathews
- "Head 'Em Up, Move 'Em Out: Four Blessed Bossies in Our Way" (page 36) by Virginia M. McCurdy
- "Who Is Most Qualified to Serve Our Ethnic-Minority Communities?" (page 39) by Martín Gómez
- "As School Libraries Race Forward, It's Time to Dispel Some Myths" (page 42) by Marilyn L. Miller
- "To Go or Not to Go? Library as Place" (page 44) by William A. Gosling

... try to get your hands on a copy. I thought was one of the best features on the library profession I've read in American Libraries this year, and thought the theme feature deserved special attention here.

It makes you think !

I was talking to an MLS student from Rutgers about ready reference collections not long ago, and it made me think about collection development issues regarding ready reference collections.

That's why I am bringing this up here. What do you think are the most important sources (by title) that *any* library should own ? Mention the editor or publisher of the title if the title is an ordinary or common name. Anyone can mention the World Almanac; *be creative!* Submit your recommendations to me (your editor [brunskill@main.morris.org] or see the block on the back of this newsletter for other methods of contact). I'll feature the most recommended results of this survey in a future edition of Point of Reference.

The newest Neal-Schuman Publishers titles

Have you purchased some of the newest library-oriented titles from Neal-Schuman Publishers yet? If you haven't, you may have missed titles these titles this year:

- Defusing the Angry Patron: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians by Rhea Joyce Rubin
- Managing Public Access Computers: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians by Donald Barclay
- Buying And Maintaining Personal Computers: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians by Norman Howden

This is just a small sample of many others put out this year by this publisher. Go to their web site (<http://www.neal-schuman.com>), select the "Online Catalog" button, toggle the "New Books" option, and you can read the summaries of the newest releases. The web site also permits online purchase of the material, or you can place your orders directly to them (Neal-Schuman Publishers, 100 Varick Street, New York, NY 10013, Phone: 212-925-8650, Fax: 212-219-8916)

Season's Greetings

from

Point
of
Reference

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The Newsletter of the Reference Section
Winter (December 2000) edition

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